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PAGE 01 HAVANA 04324 2621202
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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CU, RO
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTISAN REJECTS PLEBISCITE

REF: HAVANA 4295 N/A

1. GRANMA, DECEMBER 23, REPORTS HAVANA PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN PREVIOUS DAY BY JUAN MARI BRAS, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRO-INDEPENDENCE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP). MARI BRAS CALLS ON "REVOLUTIONARY FORCES" IN PUERTO RICO TO HELP PROMOTE UNITED FRONT BETWEEN PRO-INDEPENDENCE AND PRO-AUTONOMY FORCES TO COUNTERACT MOVES TOWARD PUERTO RICAN STATEHOOD. AN INITIAL STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, HE SAYS, WAS AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRO-INDEPENDENCE AND PRO-COMMONWEALTH FORCES ON JOINT TEXT TO PRESENT TO UN COMMITTEE OF 24 EARLIER THIS YEAR.

2. MARI BRAS CLAIMS THAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN PUERTO RICO OPPOSE STATEHOOD ("ANNEXATION"). TASK OF PSP MUST BE TO BRING TOGETHER THESE "MAJORITY FORCES" AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO TURN COURSE OF EVENTS TOWARD FULL INDEPENDENCE.

3. MARI BRAS SAYS THAT GOVERNOR ROMERO BARCELO IS SEEKING TO IMPOSE
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 04324 2621202

ELECTIONS IN 1980, FOLLOWED BY A PLEBISCITE IN 1981, TO DEMONSTRATE

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"NON-EXISTENT SUPPORT FOR STATEHOOD". PSP, HOWEVER, "REJECTS THIS PLEBISCITE" AND INSISTS THAT USG MAKE COMPLETE "TRANSFER OF POWERS" TO PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN DECIDE THEIR FATE IN FULL SOVEREIGNTY. (COMMENT: THIS ECHOES LINE OF 1970 COMMITTEE OF 24 RESOLUTION.)

4. COMMENT: LONG REPORTAGE OF MARI BRAS PRESS CONFERENCE, INTERSPERSED
WITH MARI'S EXTRAVAGENT PRAISE FOR CUBAN REVOLUTION AND POLITICAL SUPPORT AT UN, SUGGESTS THAT CUBANS ARE NOT SHRINKING FROM SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTISANS DESPITE RECENT FOURTH COMMITTEE/GA SETBACKS. PSP PUBLIC REJECTION OF PUERTO RICAN PLEBISCITE INDICATES THAT CUBANS WILL PROBABLY, DURING SEPTEMBER NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND NEXT COMMITTEE OF 24/UNGA SESSIONS, STRONGLY PUSH FOR RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR COMPLETE "TRANSFER OF POWERS" IN PUERTO RICO.
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